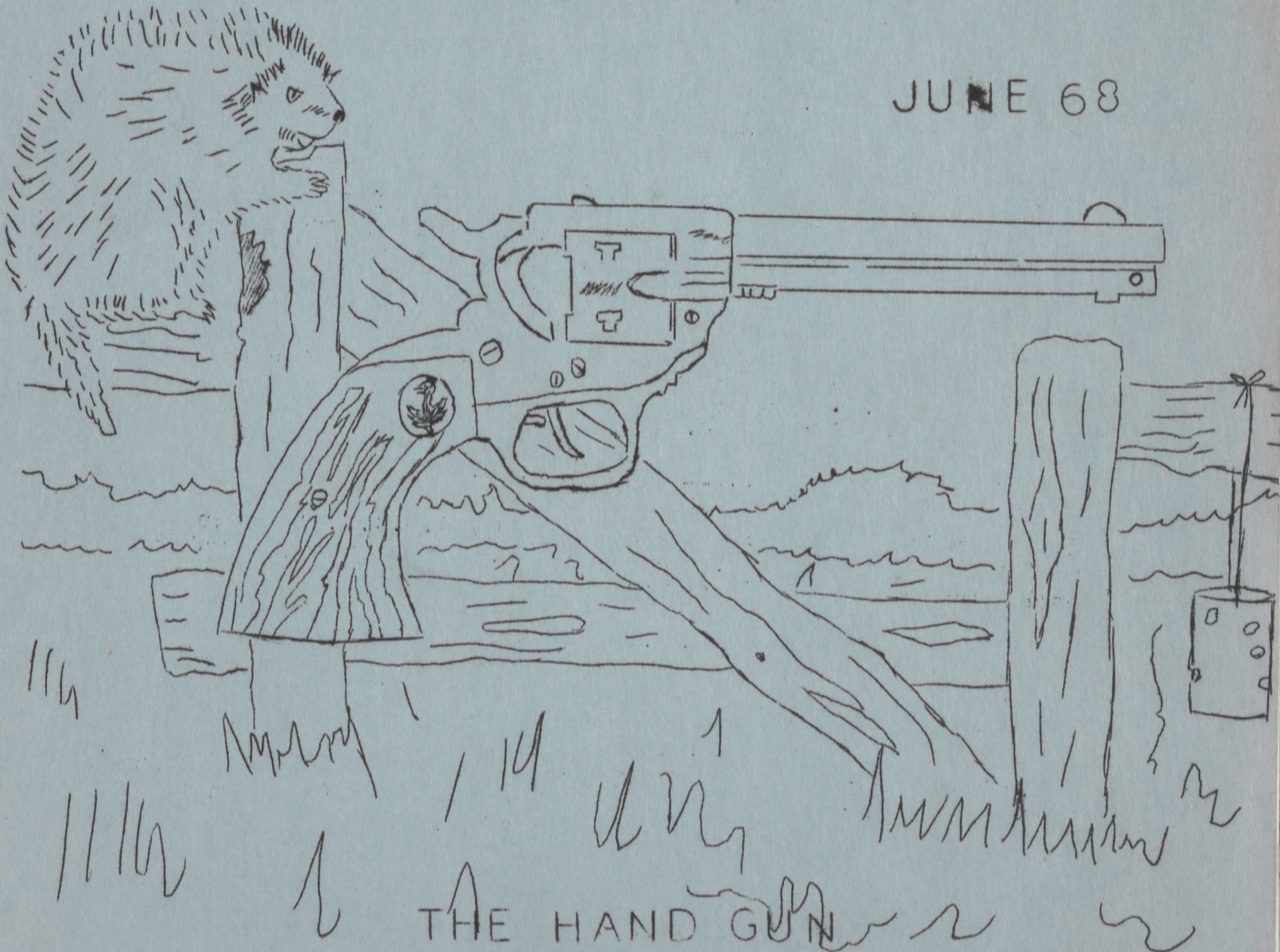


GUN TALK

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE
SASKATCHEWAN GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 68



SASKATCHEWAN GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1961
Incorporated 1962

A patriotic, educational and non-profit organization of Canadian citizens, dedicated to the collection of firearms and research into their history. Membership is open to any reputable person.

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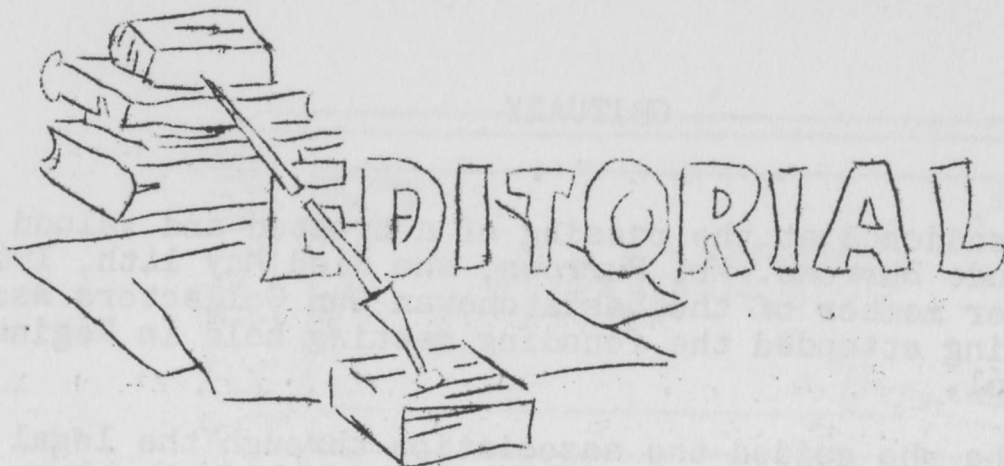
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Permission is required to produce in full or in part any of the material contained in this journal.

The views expressed in the articles appearing in this journal are not necessarily those of the Editorial Staff or of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association.



Little can be said that has not already been said about the assassination of Senator Robert F. KENNEDY.

The final results will not be known for some time, but there is no doubt that Anti-Gun Legislation has now the full backing of a much larger portion of the population than prior to June 5th.

There is little doubt that a bill for Firearm Legislation will now be re-introduced in Canada in efforts to tighten up the present regulations.

This is no reason to panic, but it is reason to continue to contact your local member of Parliament, and to back the "Canadian Association of Gun Owners", of which Mr. Harold Sleeth, one of our members, is a director of.

Regardless of your views, write CAGO now !

Anyone who made the Regina Gun Show on June 1st & 2nd must admit it was the largest and best yet. With new displays, and new ideas of setting up, it certainly caught the eye of the public. I talked to several people who had never attended a Gun Show of any type before, and they were impressed.

Through a slight mix-up on dates, a couple of the boys didn't get to display- I hope they were still able to make a few deals though.

The chaps who stayed to clean up the armouries need a pat on the back from those who didn't. The moving and cleaning took until 7.30 or better, and could have been earlier if a hand had been given in even knocking down the tables the displayers used. At the next show, wherever it is, try and give a hand if you can. It is a case of good manners, is it not?

Anyway, enough of that! The membership is higher now than ever before. Lets make it a tough record to break- it isn't too late to sign up that buddy of yours, and we need all the backing we can get for the future.

If the co-operation with the new SGCA Officers is as good as last year, we can still look forward to having one of the best Gun Associations going.

DO YOUR PART, don't leave it for the others.

GO TO THE BLACK POWDER SHOOT SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd- SEE THE ADVERTISEMENT

OBITUARY

We are saddened at the passing of a trusted and valued friend, Claude Burrows. Mr. Burrows, who died May 14th, 1968, was a charter member of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association, having attended the founding meeting held in Regina in January, 1961.

It was he who guided the association through the legal complexities of formation and incorporation, and who always stood ready to give of the benefit of his extensive legal experience when his counsel was sought. We were proud to have Mr. Burrows as our honorary solicitor, and it is with heavy hearts that we now see his name removed from our masthead.

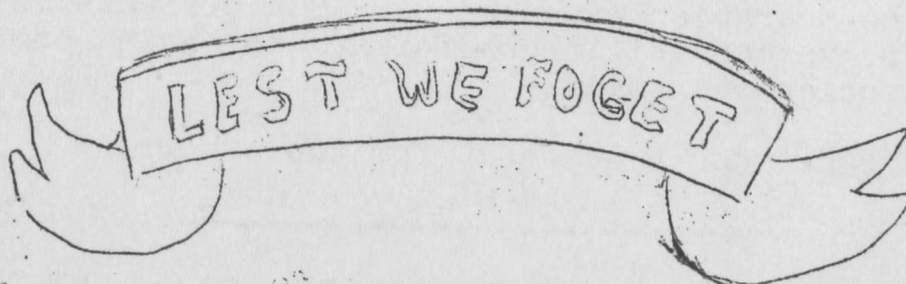
We remember Mr. Burrows as a kindly man, friendly in a sincere, quiet spoken way. But he could, and did, speak out, in words that clearly hit the mark, when confronted with the cupidity of man, or the maneuverings of individuals or groups that spelled injustice or posed a threat to freedom.

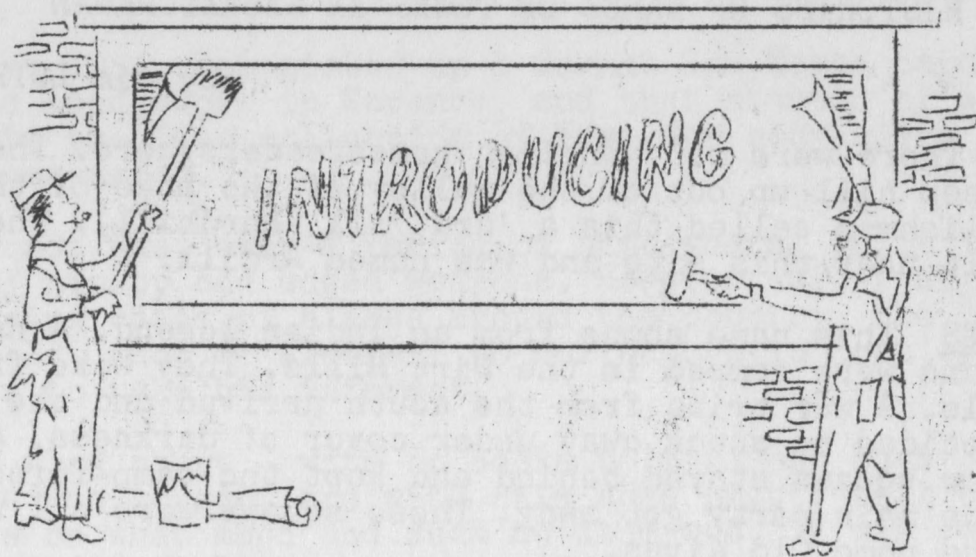
We also remember Mr. Burrows as a true sportsman and ardent lover of the outdoors. Whether it was strolling down a wooded lane drinking in the beauty of nature unspoiled, or stalking a bull moose in tumbled bushland, Mr. Burrows was always alive to, and ever thankful for the generous bounty nature has bequeathed to mankind.

He knew and respected guns. He knew that in the hands of care-conscious men, they could bring much pleasure and satisfaction.

He knew that in the hands of dedicated marksmen, they could be made to perform great feats. In the woods, a good stalk and a clean kill and the comradeship of fine men were the things that added up to a good hunt.

Over the years, we have heard many things said about Mr. Burrows. It is, indeed, a tribute to the man -- to his high sense of principle and integrity ---that all of the things we heard were good. We, of the Saskatchewan Gun Collectors Association, join with his family and all who knew him, in mourning the passing of Mr. Burrows.





As the outgoing president of the S.G.C.A. , I would like to thank all the members for their co-operation during the last two years.

We've had outstanding gun shows throughout the province, with members bringing tremendous displays, which drew large crowds all over.

Our club now has the largest paid up membership since we were formed. Once again sincere thanks for your co-operation.

With Lloyd Tallentire our new president, and the co-operation of all members, our club will climb to greater heights.

Rene R. GAUDRY

past President

By now, those of you who were at the gun show . June 1st. & 2nd., know you have a new president, "Yours Truly" Lloyd Tallentire. I know now I will not be able to fill Rene Gaudry's shoes as he wears two sizes larger than I do.

I will do my best to try and keep the organization the growing concern that it now is.

Anyone with any complaints or new ideas may feel free to write and let me know.

Thanks again to those members that put their faith in me for this position as president. I hope to meet most of you soon with a story or two in this column.

Lloyd TALLENTIRE
PRESIDENT

HISTORIES OF NAMES OF TOWNS IN SASKATCHEWAN

by Jim LUTHER

ARDILL There were many English homesteaders here. There was a very steep hill up out of the valley of the Lake of the Rivers. The Englishmen called this a 'ard 'ill (hardhill). The town was built near this site and was named Ardill.

OLD WIVES This name comes from an Indian legend. A hunting party of Indians were camped in the Dirt Hills. They were from Fort-QuAppelle. A war tribe from the south arrived and the hunting party decided to sneak away under cover of darkness. A few of the older squaws stayed behind and kept the camp-fires going, while the main party got away. These squaws were all scalped, hence the name Old Wives.

ELBOW It is the name for the sharp bend in the South Sask. at this point which is in the shape of an elbow.

If you have some more, please send them along.

IWO JIMA

The largest of the Volcano Islands, located 750 miles south of Tokyo, Japan, it is an area covering eight miles square and dominated by an extinct volcano, Mt. Suribachi (546 feet.)

During W.W. II, it was a Japanese air base and radar station, and assumed great strategic significance when the U.S. B-29s began to drop bombs on the Islands. On Feb. 19th, 1945, the 3rd, 4th and 5th U.S. Marine divisions landed to take possession. The Island was considered secure on March 16th, after one of the bloodiest battles of the war. It is estimated that 5000 Americans and 22000 Japanese died in this God forsaken Island.

Recently, during late March or early April of 1968, the island was peacefully transferred back to Japanese rule by the U.S. The transfer meant hauling down the American flag from Mount Suribachi where raising of the stars and stripes by marines was recorded in one of history's most famous combat photographs. The volcano instead carries a bronze plaque commemorating the flag-raising.

Under the terms of the agreement, the United States retains the rights to use military facilities on Iwo and another island in the group.

THE BOB HENDERSON COLLECTION

Back about 1955, Bob picked up a German Saw-Tooth bayonet from a second hand store in Toronto, and that started of what was to lead to the fine collection of Nazi war souvenirs now in his possession.

That bayonet was, over a period of nine years, built into a collection of ninety odd edged weapons. However, after eight years of lugging cases of blades around the country, the Nazi Souvenir Field, then a "sleeper" to collectors in most of Canada, began to take his interest.

It was a slow start - with no books to find out what one had, or what there was to get, and with only some pretty tall tales by some veterans on what such and such an item was, it was surprising the collection didn't lapse because of other interests. However, about 1965, the Nazi display crowded out the old edged weapon collection, and it got disposed of.

His collection now consists of a good variety of war souvenirs such as thirty different dress daggers and bayonets, 5 swords, 8 variations of helmets, such as police, airforce, air defence, Africa Corps, and a transition type used between W.W. 1 & 11.

In flags and banners, he has those for political rallies, the common battle flag, government building flag, and navy flags for an admiral, a gross admiral and a general-admiral, and also a flotilla standard.

Car pennants for the navy, the Nazi party, the R.L.B. or flying corps add variations. Cloth badges galore cover one wall, along with arm bands from the party, polititions, technical corps, the German Army, stretcher bearer assistants, postmen, front locater units, SS, Hitler Youth, Veterans League and Ordinance inspector.

Cuff titles (worn on the sleeve of a tunic) from the Africa Corps, Herman Goring regiment, the SS "Viking" and "GrossDeutschland" and "Deutschland" Divisions, with others can be seen.

Medals in the collection range from the "Mothers Cross" for bearing children to the "Order of Blood" which was regarded with the highest respect in the Nazi party. With thirty one medals for variation, he hardly needs to display his collection of badges, which come to over 40 types.

Then come the "Odds and Ends" - a mass of party day badges, rally pins, rings, tokens, coins, stamps, books, photos, propaganda sheets, tunics, hats, buckles, eppaulettes, insignia, etc.etc.etc., make the collection one of interest to anyone who views it.

Bob has the satisfaction of being the first collector of Nazi items in Saskatchewan, and it is with great interest that he has watched the "sleeper" come awake, with collection expanding at a fast pace.

It is now possible to count at least nine collectors chasing Nazi items in Sask alone. The number will probably grow,

CANNON MODELS

For interested members who haven't got room to keep a cannon in their room, Pocher Cannons, of Turin, Italy, offer exact replicas of the real thing, and like the originals, they are built with brass barrels, hardwood frames, metal bindings and exquisitely tooled wheels. The decoration and fluting on some pieces is very intricate.

With variations such as 17th century naval guns; Franco-Prussian War krupp 75 mm guns; siege cannon of Louis 1V period and Civil War Napoleons, they can be collected by themselves.

Each piece is a faithful replica of the full-size gun, and each piece fits accordingly. With over 200 parts of brass, wood and steel built in 1/21 scale, they could be the nearest thing to a cannon in a collection. They are available from A.B. Boyd, Dept. S, 810 E. 14th St., Los Angeles, 90021. Catalogue available at .50 ¢.

BOOKS FOR COLLECTORS

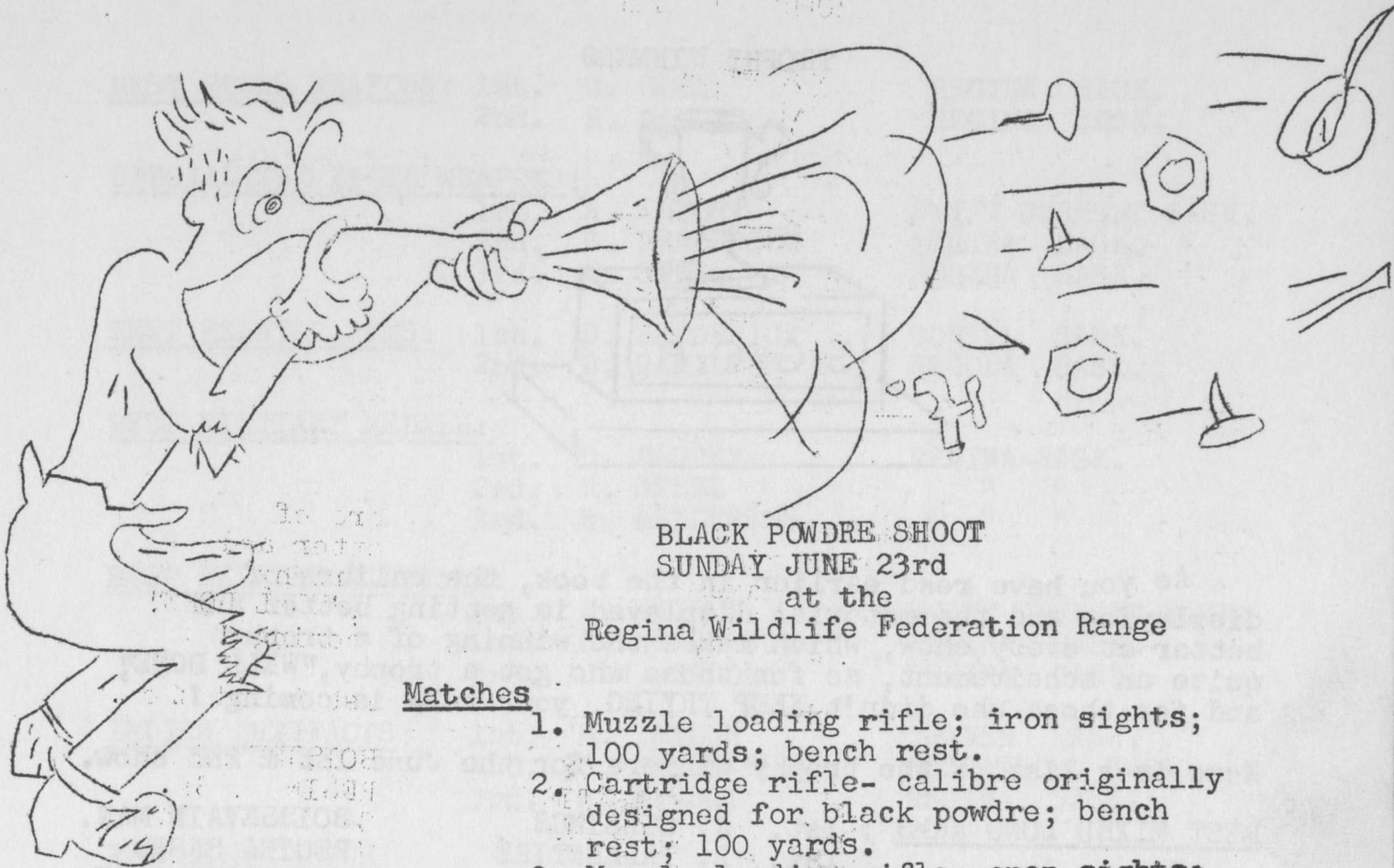
The following are available from "Globe Firearms", Dept. S.M. 603-607 W. 29th St., New York. N.Y. 10001.

UNIFORM AND DRESS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA: by Richard HARWELL. An exact recreation of official Confederate orders and drawings actually issued during the Civil War. 72 pages, 22 full plates, 9 in full colour. Cost is \$15.00

JAPANESE INFANTRY WEAPONS: Covers in illustrated detail the weapons you have heard about, and many you haven't. Over 40 different rifles, machine guns, anti tank rifles, mines, grenades, mortars, ammo and markings. Over 240 pages. The cost is \$ 3.50

BRITISH MILITARY SWORDS FROM 1800 TO THE PRESENT: by John Wilkinson LATHAM: 91 pages, 74 plates and 18 line drawings. The book is a survey of the British swords since 1800, and covers over 100 variations. A "must" for the British edged weapon collector. Cost is \$5.95

HELMETS AND HEADADDRESS OF THE GERMAN IMPERIAL ARMY: by Robert H. RANKIN: A 152 page book on German headgear; profusely illustrated. Cost is \$9.50



BLACK POWDRE SHOOT
SUNDAY JUNE 23rd
at the
Regina Wildlife Federation Range

Matches

1. Muzzle loading rifle; iron sights; 100 yards; bench rest.
2. Cartridge rifle- calibre originally designed for black powdre; bench rest; 100 yards.
3. Muzzle loading rifle; open sights; 50 yards; offhand.
4. Cartridge rifle; same as event two; 50 yards; offhand.
5. Muzzle loading smooth bore long arms; solid ball; 25 yards; offhand.
6. Military rifles; 35 calibre or larger; 50 yards; prone, kneeling or offhand.
7. Cartridge pistols; 1880 or older, calibre not smaller than .32; 20 yards.
8. Percussion pistols - 20 yards.
9. Percussion revolvers - 20 yards.
10. Muzzle loading shotguns.

ENTRY FEE: .50¢ per event with a maximum of \$2.00. All matches 6 shots, the best 5 being counted.

TO GET TO THE RANGE: Drive east from Regina on Number One highway for six miles to the Pilot Butte turn off. Turn left across the west bound lanes, then turn right and head east for one mile on the access road, then two miles north to the range.

LUNCH SERVED AT THE RANGE; EVENTS START AT NOON: COME AND BRING ANOTHER SHOOTER.

TROPHY WINNERS



As you have read earlier in the book, the calibre of displaying and the material displayed is getting better and better at every show, which makes the winning of a trophy quite an achievement, so for those who got a trophy, "WELL DONE", and for those who didn't, KEEP TRYING, your turn is coming !

Here is a list of the trophy winners for the June 1st & 2nd show.

<u>BEST MIXED LONG ARMS</u> :	1st.	J. GILLINGS	BOISSEVAIN MAN.
	1st.	L. TALLENTIRE	REGINA SASK.
	2nd.	D. RIDGEWELL	SASKATOON SASK.
	3rd.	L. HALMRAST	WARNER ALTA.
<u>BEST LEVER ACTION:</u>	1st.	L. DOBRESCU	MOOSE JAW SASK.
	2nd.	D. RIDGWELL	SASKATOON SASK.
	3rd.	B. BRODERICK	CONSUL SASK.
<u>BEST LONG ARMS:</u>	1st.	R. PHILLIPS	REGINA SASK.
	2nd.	J. GILLINGS	
<u>BEST MILITARY LONG ARMS:</u>	1st.	L. TALLENTIRE	REGINA SASK.
	1st.	L. HALMRAST	WARNER ALTA.
	2nd.	R. PHILLIPS	REGINA SASK.
	3rd.	L. SMITH	SASKATOON SASK.
	4th.	M. MIRAU	SWIFT CURRENT
<u>BEST GENERAL HAND GUNS:</u>	1st.	R. HILL	MOOSE JAW SASK.
	2nd.	L. HALMRAST	WARNER ALTA.
	3rd.	B. SPENCE	WINNIPEG MAN.
	3rd.	G. OWENS	N. BATTLEFORD
	4th.	R. KOPAS	REGINA SASK.
<u>BEST CARTRIDGE COLLECTION:</u>	1st.	J. TAYLOR	LLOYDMINSTER
	2nd.	C.W. BAILEY	CLIMAX SASK.
	3rd.	R. GAUDRY	REGINA SASK.

BEST EDGED WEAPONS: 1st. G. COOK REGINA SASK.
2nd. R. GAUDRY REGINA SASK.

SPECIALIZED EDGED WEAPONS:

1st. A. WRIGHT SWIFT CURRENT SASK.
2nd. B. HENDERSON REGINA SASK.
3rd. R. STEEL REGINA SASK.

BEST RELATED ARMS: 1st. B. BRODERICK CONSUL SASK.
2nd. B. HAMILTON ARCOLA SASK.

BEST MILITARY MEDALS:

1st. R. GAUDRY REGINA SASK.
2nd. R. STEEL " "
3rd. B. HENDERSON " "

BEST RELATED MILITARY:

1st. A. WRIGHT SWIFT CURRENT SASK.
2nd. B. HENDERSON REGINA SASK.
3rd. J.W. DIDDLE REGINA SASK.

INDIAN ARTIFACTS: 1st. M. TAYLOR CRAVEN SASK.
2nd. D. RIDGEWELL SASKATOON SASK.
3rd. R. GAUDRY REGINA SASK.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE:

ANDY WRIGHT SWIFT CURRENT SASK.

JUDGES APPRECIATION AWARD:

YARMO POHJAVUORIREGINA SASK.

A Chinese person was being interviewed for a passport. The official asked his name, and recieved the reply " sneeze ".

"That doesn't sound chinese to me" said the official."Is that your chinese name ? "NO, "Melican" name ", said the Chinese.
" Well, what is your chinese name?" "AH CHOO" was the reply.

Some gadgets get shut up in closets,
The ironing board in a wall.
In many a house - it is only a spouse,
Who cannot be shut up at ALL.

My face is red - my jaw is slack..

I stretched the truth - and it snapped back.

CAMOUFLAGE

In warfare, this is the concealment of objects of attack by artificial disguises. The commonest form of camouflage is that which protects vital objects by making them blend into the surrounding terrain and vegetation.

Camouflage was used in earlier wars, but first became important during the World Wars with the development of air observation. The extensive use of aerial photography made it even more important.

Gun emplacements are usually camouflaged with foliage placed on net or wire screens over the position. During W.W. I & W.W. II, screens were even used to cover large buildings and roads. Uniforms were designed to blend with the average terrain, and army vehicles were painted dull colors.

Roads or paths were made to appear as if they ran through a position, instead of terminating at it.

Because aerial photographs were taken at great height, camouflage was concentrated on the maintenance of the general pattern of terrain, rather than on concealment of details. Proximity of men and guns to prominent points was avoided to make enemy adjustments of gunfire or bombing more difficult.

Camouflage was also used on ships- during W.W. I they were frequently painted in dazzling colors and stripes to secure a distortion of perspective. For the most part, ships during W.W. II were painted in solid colors designed to blend with the waters through which they travelled.

The extensive use of aerial bombardment during W.W. II led to the use of the blackout as night camouflage. Dummy buildings, bridges, ships, etc., were sometimes constructed to distract attention from actual targets.

A Ross Sniper Rifle in the Roger PHILLIPS collection is camouflaged to ease concealment, which is another example of to what extent camouflage was used.

It is interesting to note the change in policy used by the U.S. Airforce between W.W. II and Vietnam. Most of there aircraft appear to have no camouflage now. This is no doubt results from their speed, the use of radar, and other similar reasons that make the use of camouflage as outdated as a flintlock at a machine-gun shoot.

During the upcoming elections for Prime Minister, one of the leading candidates was startled to find that his mother was not going to vote for him.

Apparently she had already had a belly full of him at an earlier date.

S.G.C.A. MEMBER STARTLES THE GUN COLLECTING WORLD

The feature article in the March, 1966 issue of Argosy magazine presented "HITLER'S GOLDEN GUN". It was the first public announcement that Hitler's pistol, possibly the one with which he ended his life in 1945, was owned by the proprietors of an antique firearms and armour shop in Cleveland, Ohio.

On the cover of the magazine was a colour photo of the pistol, superimposed over a picture of Hitler. Also shown was a "War Order Of The German Cross" Medal. The photo was entitled "Hitler's Solid Gold Pistol".

The covering story explained the pistol had been presented to Hitler, that it was made of gold, that it had been liberated along with other items of Hitler's personal property, and that the collection was "priceless". The picture and story were enough to raise the interest of Andy and Margaret Wright of Swift Current, Sask., long noted for their display of WW II souvenirs at Western Gun Shows.

No doubt, correspondence between the Wrights and the owners of the pistol took place - at least for more definite information on the gun and other material. A trip to the States in March, 1968, by the Wrights resulted in them purchasing the pistol. The Swift Current newspaper, "The Sun", on March 29th, ran the headline "ADOLPH HITLER'S SUICIDE WEAPON PURCHASED BY CITY GUN COLLECTOR". Page two of the Regina "Leader Post" on April 6th ran an article "SWIFT CURRENT MAN BUYS HITLER'S SUICIDE PISTOL".

Andy and Margaret are the first to point out, the pistol is NOT solid gold! It is gold plated, and covered with intricate scroll work. It has ivory grips, with the letters AH in gold on the left grip. The left side of the action is marked in German with the inscription "A GIFT OF HONOUR FROM THE WALTHER FAMILY", the letters being in gold.

The 7,65 Walther had been presented to Hitler by the Walther family on April 20th, 1939 - Hitler's 50th birthday. Heinze LINGE, who served as Hitler's valet for ten years, tells of cleaning the pistol for Hitler on several occasions. Linge tells of taking the pistol after Hitler committed suicide with it, and wiping the blood from the surface of the pistol, then keeping it until prior to his capture by the Russians in Munich.

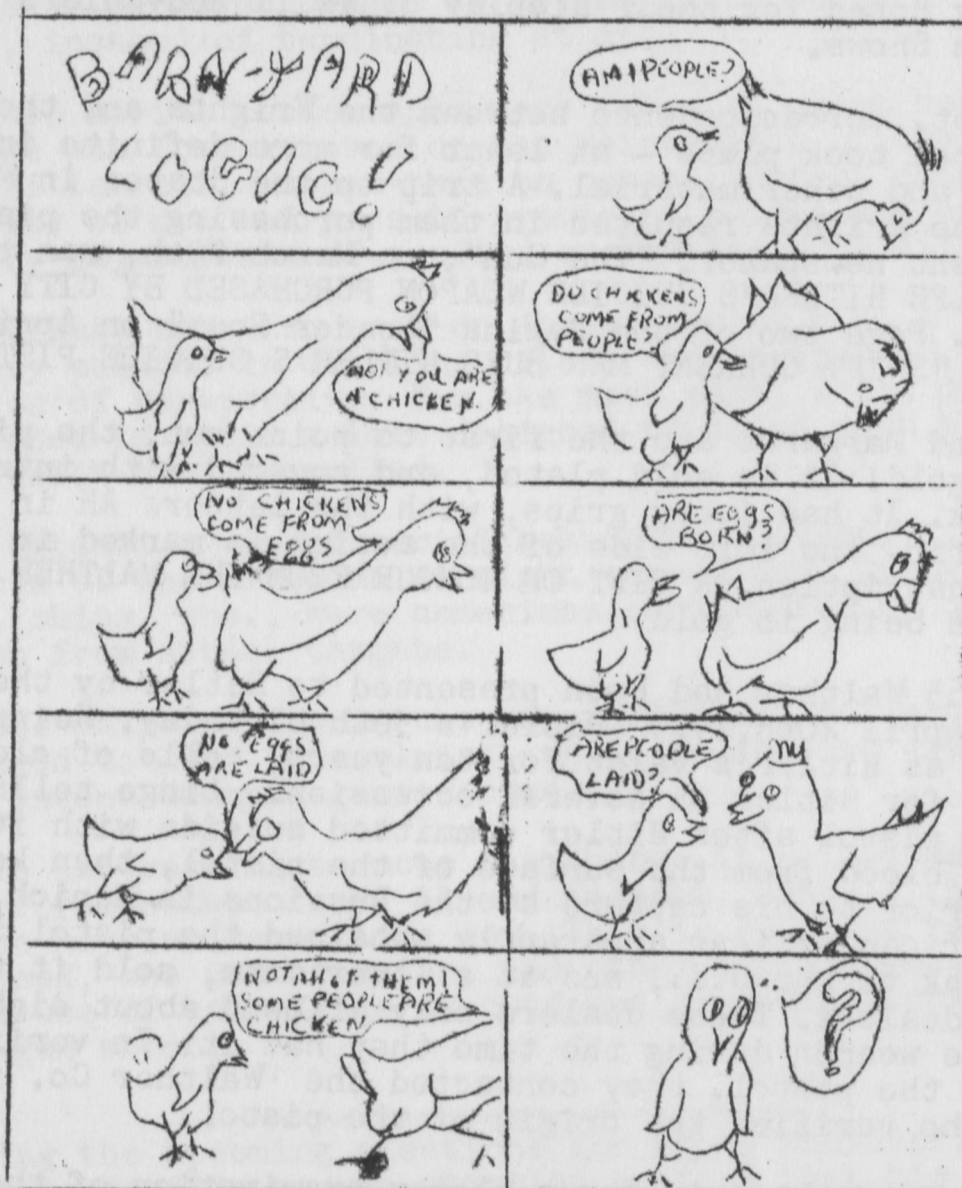
An American officer apparently obtained the pistol in Munich, took it back to the U.S., and at a later date, sold it to the Cleveland dealers. These dealers only allowed about eight people to view the weapon during the time they had it. In verifying the history of the pistol, they contacted the Walther Co. in Germany, who verified the origin of the pistol.

On removing the grip for a closer examination of the weapon, blood was found to have seeped between the grip and the frame, where it had dried. It has since been tested and found to be the same type as Hitler's.

By obtaining the pistol, and bringing it to Canada, Wrights beat out several museums interested in purchasing it; such as West Point Military Academy and the Jerusalem Museum.

Andy credits the purchase to "being there at the right time" more than anything.

And just for your information - pictures are not available, the pistol is not on display, and the purchase price is not public. The pistol is in the bank and will remain there for some time.



THE PRESERVATION OF THE BUFFALO

Francisco CORONADO could not believe his eyes in the year 1540, as he and his group of a thousand horsemen rode out of the Peace River Valley and onto the Staked Plains. The land was covered with large animals as far as the riders could see. The area is now in Northern Texas.

Reports of native North American wild cattle had been reported 20 years earlier by CORTEZ, a Spanish explorer. And CORONADO observed small herds on the way north from what is now the Mexican border, but the spectacle of the Great Central Herd was overwhelming. A historian with the group labelled the number "like the fish in the sea". In two years on the Great Plains, searching for the golden Kingdom of Cibola from Arizona to Kansas, the expedition was never out of sight of herds of bison.

During that period, the American bison (our word buffalo apparently comes from French boeufs, meaning bulls) occupied an area stretching from the Blue Mountains of Oregon to the Eastern slope of the Appalachians in New York, and from Northern Mexico to Great Slave Lake in Canada.

Claims have been made that three variations of bison exist: the wood bison of the North and East, the plains bison of the central prairies, and the mountain bison of the Rocky Mountain foothills. Others claim that any difference was due to environment.

The Wood bison were larger and less prone to form large herds than the Plains bison. A large wood bison could stand six feet at the shoulders and weigh about 2500 pounds, while the female (cow) weighed about 1500 pounds. A Plains bison bull seldom exceeded one ton, and the cows ran about 800 pounds.

Efforts to domesticate the animals failed, but they offered a source of meat, hide, bone, sinew and horn that was required to support the early life of Indians and early settlers alike.

After CORONADO, every traveller to cross the plains told of the number of buffalo seen on this trip. C.H. TOWNSEND reported an eight mile wide valley filled rim to rim for ten miles with a solid mass of animals in 1830. L. VOORHEES told of riding 200 miles through a series of herds that stretched as far as could be seen when mounted on horseback. A group on the Arkansas River in Kansas estimated one herd at four million: it stretched 25 miles wide and fifty miles long. General SHERIDAN and a party of Cavalry officers rode 100 miles from Fort Dodge to Fort Supply through a solid herd of bison, and estimated the number to be about 100 million.

The number of buffalo that roamed the Great Plains was never counted or estimated with any accuracy. Modern estimates, made long after the disappearance of the herds, and made very conservatively, quote the peak number at 60 million. No one will ever know the true count.

For centuries, the bison withstood any natural enemies- fire, drought, blizzards, cliffs and floods, and the natural predators- Indians, who relied on the bison for their own existence.

The herds were relatively free from disease, but spectacular numbers died. This had little effect on the herds at the time. A herd of 100,000 stampeded over a cliff one night near Cheyenne Wells, Wyoming. A herd broke through river ice in the Qu'Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan - drowned buffalo floated past one position downstream for three days.

Indians killed buffalo with no concern- but they used almost the complete animal. With their native weapons and numbers, the herds remained stable. Predators, such as wolves and coyotes accounted for the weak, the old and the stragglers- the strong survived to ensure a better stock in the future.

The flood of settlers spilled Westward through the hills and forests east of the Mississippi, and they relied on the bison almost as much as the Indians. He hunted them for food, for robes and to get them off his farmland. Buffalo disappeared from the area at a rate of about ten miles a year. Then the settlers reached the open plains and the Great Central Herd.

The massive number of bison resulted in its undoing. There appeared to be an unending supply. And they were a dangerous nuisance to the settlers- with their long hair, they were always ready to scratch themselves on a boulder, a tree or anything else that was handy. Early communications were disrupted when miles of telegraph poles were "rubbed down". Putting spikes on them only made them more popular. Records tell of one settler who built his log house on the path to a salt lick. A herd on the way to the lick rubbed it down to a heap in a few hours.

Perhaps the buffalos' worst sin in the eyes of many men was their value to the Indians. Each bison killed was one less to feed, clothe and house an Indian family. At least one territorial government encouraged killing buffalo "for removing the agricultural nuisance and destroying the Indians' commissary".

By 1810, settlers had almost eliminated all the buffalo east of the Mississippi. By 1820, they were practically extinct east of the Great Plains.

In the middle 1850's, however, the great buffalo hunts began- some for meat, some for sport. Reputations were built on the number of animals a man could kill- Examples were Kit CARSON and Alexis GODEY, both who hunted meat for army camps.

After the American Civil War, the move westward began in earnest. New Army camps, using professional meat hunters, began to take a toll on the herds. The bison was gaining commercial value.

Then the railroads opened the west. Hunters were hired to supply meat to their construction camps. New names appeared- Billy TILGHMAN, William F. (Buffalo Bill) CODY, Etc. But the railroads' real contribution to the coming slaughter was in providing a means of shipping meat, hides and bones back east. Buffalo hunting was becoming a commercial operation, which was also quite profitable.

Teams of hunters and skinners moved into the plains, with no idea of sport. The animals were shot in any manner, with a good professional killing one to three thousand bison a year, and keeping at least two skinners busy. A real expert could kill more than that. The slaughter continued, until the animal kill on the northern plains from 1850 to 1860 is estimated at 250,000 per year. Of these, 100,000 a year were killed just for their hides - no use was made of the animal. Even meat hunters took only the delicacies - tongue, hump meat and "bass" - a ridge at the back of the neck. The rest was left for scavengers in the animal kingdom.

Few statistics exist of the number of bison killed. Railroad officials seldom released shipment figures of buffalo products for the central and southern plains. But in 1871, a single St. Louis firm bought 250,000 hides; and as many as 200,000 were handled in "a day or two" at the auction at Fort Worth in 1873 and 1874.

Then came the "sports" who rode out into the herds in trains and shot buffalo along the right of way. A good shot could kill 40 to 60 a day - the animal was left where it fell.

The slaughter continued on the central plains through the 1870's, swung south in the late 1870's, then north again when new rail lines opened the northern plains in the early 1880's. The results were ghastly - the Northern Pacific Railway records the number of hides handled from northern hunts as -

1881 - shipped 50,000

1882 - shipped 200,000

1883 - shipped 40,000

1884 - shipped 300 - the great northern herds were gone.

A Federal bill to protect the surviving small herds was passed in 1874, but pocket vetoed by President Grant. The last of the great northern herd of wild buffalo, except for scattered remnants, were killed near Yellowstone Park in 1889; the last herd of wild buffalo in the United States were killed in Colorado in February of 1897, despite efforts of local authorities to protect them. The great herds were gone!

Deliberate slaughter and natural calamities left miles of prairie white with bones. A ready market for these resulted in "Bone Hunters" and settlers collecting them for shipment east for use in carbon and fertilizer, with horn buttons and implements being in style. Great piles of bones were stacked along railroads for shipping, and fortunes were made for a few years. Then even the bones were gone.

In 1886, an expedition from the Smithsonian Institution had great difficulty in obtaining 25 animals now mounted in the habitat group there. In 1887, the American Museum of Natural History sent an expedition into Montana for specimens, and failed to get any. They finally purchased hides to make up the group now on display in that museum.

In 1894, President Cleveland signed a bill to protect a herd of buffalo in the Yellowstone area of Wyoming. Canada had protected a herd at Athabasca since the 1880's.

In 1900, 29 bison were under the control of the American Government, and 940 were scattered across the U.S. in small privately owned herds.

On December 1, 1905, The American Bison Society was established - a handful of dedicated men determined to save the buffalo from extinction. These men fought for and won a battle to start stocking areas-

- 1906 - 15 buffalo from Bronx Zoo to Cache, Oklahoma
- 1909 - 40 buffalo released near Moiese, Montana
- 1912 - 6 buffalo sent to a refuge near Valentine, Nebraska
- 1913 - 14 buffalo sent to Wind Cave Park, South Dakota
- 1919 - 6 buffalo sent to North Carolina

By 1935, the population was 2,435 in nine herds, with 4,404 in existence. This has grown to an estimated 12,000 in the United States, 18,000 in Canada and 200 in Alaska.

The buffalo has been brought back from the shadow of extinction.



"MY ONLY CONSOATION - HE MAY BE A GUN COLLECTOR "

From the book "SWORDS, LANCE AND BAYONET"
by Charles Foulkes & E.C. Hopkinson

sent in by John HAROLD

THE BAYONET

Most writers on the subject from the seventeenth century on, have connected the name with the town of BAYONNE, which certainly had a reputation for the manufacture of cutlery and cross bows, and they quote Menage's Dictionary published in 1694 and Voltaire's Henriade of a century later as authorities suggesting that the first bayonet was adapted from the cross bowmans knife made at Beyonne. Marechal de Paysegur describes it as being 12 inches long. It had a cross guard and a wooden grip which fitted into the muzzle, the grip being tapered as none of the muskets of the period were standerized, and the calibres varied considerably. It had serious drawbacks; firstly, it could only be used after the musket had been discharged, which was at once proclaimed to the enemy by the fixing of the bayonets; secondly, if rammed home, it was difficult to unfix; and thirdly, if it were not securely fixed, it might be dropped or left in the body of the enemy.

The earliest mention of a bayonet used in the British Army is to be found in an account of operations in Tangiers in 1663, given in Sloan MSS. (British Museums) 1957, and ten years later a Warrant of Charles II, dated 2nd April, 1672, orders that Dragoons are to be provided with matchlocks and "one bayonet or great knife". The plug bayonet continued in use until the beginning of the eighteenth century, when large numbers were returned to the Tower, where over 2000 bearing the Solingen mark were destroyed in the fire of 1841. Several specimens, however, still survive in the guard-room at Hampton Court.

The drawback of placing the musket out of action by fixing the bayonet was only realized after it had been used for over a decade and is credited to the French. Marechal de Puysegur describes a regiment shortly before the peace of Nimeguen (1678) as having swords with rings at the grip which could be passed over the barrel and thus the piece could be fired with fixed bayonet.

By Warrant of 15 November 1678, Phillip Russel was paid eight pounds, eight shillings for a new sort of bayonet "but no details are given". It can hardly have been a plug-bayonet for this had been in use for some years. It is possible that this was some form of socket-bayonet but, it is more probably the ringed variety. Mackay attributes the invention of the ring-bayonet to a Highland Officer in 1689, but it is more probable that, owing to the constant intercourse between Scotland and France at this period, the Highlander brought over the new-pattern weapon.

The loose fitting rings had obvious disadvantages and about the year 1703-4 the French introduced the socket-bayonet, fixed by a right-angled slot in the socket, which was passed over the sight and locked with half a turn. This was by no means satisfactory yet as late as 1843, according to Sibald Scott, the men of the 22nd Regiment at the Battle of Meanee, in the Scinde Campaign, had their bayonets pulled off by the Bellochee enemy and had to tie them on with string and wire. In 1884, "a new and more secure method...for attaching or fixing the bayonet" was introduced with springs to keep it in place and orders were issued for fitting these to existing bayonets. From the year 1825 onwards, experiments had been made with locking springs of different types, and eventually in 1853 a locking ring was fitted to the Enfield Rifle. The blade was originally flat and dagger-like. In 1745-6 the store vouchers record 15,000 bayonet scabbards as received in the Tower, but no mention is made of bayonets in this year.

Toward the end of the 18th century, a triangular sectioned blade was introduced, the sides at first flat, the later about 1825, they were "fullered" or grooved. The three sided weapon was in use up to the year 1895, at first straight, and in 1853 with a slight outward bend and laterally straight again. Along side of this type was developed the true sword-bayonet, first used with the Baker and Brunswick rifles in 1800 and 1837 respectively. These were fixed onto side brackets with locking springs in the brass grip. From 1853 onwards, we have sword bayonets for the Snyder and Lancaster rifles with a ring in the quillon to fit over the barrel in addition to the grip-spring. These weapons, although useful to some extent as swords, were destructive of balance of the rifle when used as bayonets, and the economical attempt to make one arm serve two purposes culminated in the preposterous Naval-cutless-bayonet. An engraving by James Green, dated 1803 shows a cutless-bayonet as the arm of the Dismounted Light Horse Volunteers. An example of this type of weapon is preserved in the Tower.

Another and still unpractical combination weapon was tried in the saw-back sword-bayonet, the set of the teeth prevented extreme penetration. In 1871 a broad leaf-shaped blade (saw-back) known as the "Elcho" was introduced, which seems to have had a short life, but was revived with certain alterations for the Ashanty campaign of 1895.

This was followed in 1875 by the straight saw-back sword-bayonet with Knuckle-bow, which was adopted by the artillery.

In 1888 the short sword-bayonet was introduced with variations of length and fitting and has continued in use up to the present day, though it is within the bounds of possibility that this will experience drastic alterations before long.

WE DO TOO (HAVE GUN LAWS)

by Jack STEAD

There is an increasing frequency of the number of times we encounter anti-gun sentiments in the press, radio and television, as well as in our daily contacts. More and more people express the belief that we need restrictive firearms legislation in Canada.

It is my belief that most people who are clamoring for greater controls, have no idea of the number of laws which now exist in this area or the severity of the penalties which may be imposed on those convicted of their violation.

We should all make use of every opportunity we get to inform people that Canada already has plenty of laws regarding firearms - perhaps too many.

I am attaching a letter which will illustrate the sort of thing I have in mind. The Regina Leader Post published the greater portions of this, leaving out the humorous touches.

Many people have mentioned that they saw this letter and almost invariably express surprise at the number of laws in existence which restrict firearms.

I strongly recommend that you all become familiar with present firearms Legislation and whenever you run into one of these un-informed reformers, call their BLUFF.

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2209 Dufferin Road,
Regina, Sask.,
May 23rd. 1968

The Editor,
Regina Leader Post,
Regina, Saskatchewan.

Dear Sir;

The May 17 Leader Post reported on Miss Jeanne McGuire's plans for a protest group to fire a barrage of blank cartridges at United States military aircraft which will be flying over Saskatchewan on June 29th.

Since this is the first protest group in Canada to feature firearm usage, I would like to make use of this column to inform and advise participants in this event of the safety rules which should be observed and the laws which must be obeyed.

contd.

Blank cartridges can be lethal weapons at close range and cause severe burns at greater distances. All participants would be well advised to take a Hunter Safety Course approved by the Department of Natural Resources. These courses consist of many hours of lectures, demonstrations and practise in safe gun handling procedures. Qualified instructors who are members of The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation are available at no charge to conduct these classes, which will soon be mandatory for Saskatchewan hunters.

Also covered in the lectures are provincial regulations regarding game preserves, posted land, shooting by permission only, minimum distances firearms may be fired from farm buildings, laws governing carrying shotguns or rifles in vehicles, discharging firearms from vehicles or on road allowances, to mention only a few items.

Participants in this protest should also check with the municipal authorities involved since many rural and urban municipalities have bylaws prohibiting and discharge of firearms or rifles.

Miss McGuire mentions that pistols will be used. These are strictly controlled by Federal laws. In order to own a pistol, permission must be obtained from the local Registrar of Firearms and complete details filed at the R.C.M.P. headquarters in Ottawa. In order to move any pistol outside the owners dwelling, a permit to convey must be obtained from the police. This is only granted to members of legally constituted shooting organizations, which are approved by the Attorney General's Dept. of the province. Such permits allow discharge of pistols only on pistol ranges which are built to approved safety standards.

Other sections of the Criminal Code of Canada deal with such offences as pointing a firearm and being a passenger in a vehicle in which there is an unregistered pistol. Lengthy jail sentences may be imposed on those convicted of any violation of these laws.

Changes in the federal firearms regulations are currently underway. New laws imposing more severe restrictions on the ownership and use of guns of all kinds have already received a first reading in the House of Commons.

The protesters should also check with the Department of Natural Resources to find out if any license fees apply to this activity. Should the aircraft be classified in the same category as migratory birds, a federal license fee must also be paid. It is also possible that the present provincial government has passed laws making it illegal to shoot at Americans during tourist season. In view of the many hindrances to this form of protest, I would suggest to Miss McGuire that her group protest in some simpler manner. How about self-immolation?

Yours truly,

Jack C. Stead

SO YOU WANT TO BUY FROM ENGLAND!

Quite a number of collectors have recently taken an interest in "Mail Order Auctions" in England. Certainly, some members have had considerable success for some years at this type of thing.

However, most members of the S.G.C.A. are not familiar with how these auctions work. First, you subscribe to their catalogue for the period of a year, and this usually will run into various amounts of money, depending on the size of the firm you are dealing with.

After receiving the catalogue, you have only a limited time to examine its contents, decide how much you would pay for an item, and fire a letter off giving the sale number, item number, description and bid.

You then sit back and wait, possibly up to three weeks when a letter comes in and advises you whether you won or lost the bid.

Now, say the item you bid on was a fancy chamber pot, and you felt it would be worth about \$60.00 for some reason or other on the Canadian market. A likely bid might be \$45.00, because when you paid duty, etc., it would likely total close to \$60.00.

So you bid \$45.00, and the highest bid on the floor was only \$30.00. You should therefore receive the pot at \$30.00, which isn't a bad price, even including duty, etc., which will probably push the total to \$40.00. Congratulations! You got a good deal.

BUT! You haven't received the packing and shipping charges yet, from another firm who receive all auctioned items for overseas buyers from the auctioneers. These chaps will soon write saying, "For packing, shipping, and insurance you owe us "X" dollars". Please advise if you want the item held until more items are to be sent to you.

Now these birds have you in the corner. For example, a four inch medallion c/w case, purchased at an auction for about \$12.00, the packers want about \$7.18 to ship it out to Canada.

What they would charge for a chamber pot is anyone's guess, but I wouldn't want to pay it.

It seems the only way to get around it is to have lots of items being sent at once, so the massive boxes they pack the items into are full.

So the moral of the story is- dont buy English! Save your money, take a trip to the U.S., and buy what you see, then bring it back yourself. It will be cheaper and more fun.

Another humorous incident that is true, as told by

Mr. V. Winton

In 1940, after Dunkirk, I was stationed in the north-east of England, on the River Tyne. Being a seaport and navy dockyard, it was subject to almost nightly air-raids. This was a Balloon Squadron I was attached to, and our H.Q. was a large house in town next to a pub. As there was a shortage of weapons, we were issued one Ross rifle to five men. Myself, I owned an Enfield .22 of ancient vintage but much better than a pike or one handle as the Home Guard had.

One night, during an air-raid, word was received that paratroopers were dropping. We all piled out of bed and into vehicles, one half ton ford van, a ford 2 ton truck, one motor cycle and the C.O.'s sports car. Five of us got in the car. I was in the back seat with Wilson - he had a Ross rifle. On the way to the scene of action he decided to load the rifle - plus one up the spout. That wasn't too bad, but then he decided to fix bayonet. In the crowded confines of a sports car, this was an achievement, but in the procedure he managed to spear the C.O.'s hat and the C.O. became quite peeved over this and told Wilson in no uncertain words what to do with the bayonet !!

On arriving at the scene of action we piled out of the car and Wilson being last out and anxious to meet the enemy, somehow managed to pull the trigger prematurely and blew a hole in the roof of the car. The C.O. was quite put out by it and managed to put his foot where he had told Wilson to put the bayonet. Wilson's ancestors also suffered in the outrageous remarks the C.O. made.

At that time a Home Guard member came along and told us that the paratroopers had turned out to be German airmen from a plane shot down by A.A. fire. We went back to H.Q.'s. Wilson in the truck. We got the publican out of the air raid shelter and all had a pint of mild and bitter plus some good laughs over the C.O. and Wilson.

DID YOU KNOW

Antique guns fall under tariff item 69315-1 and must be 100 years or more old to come in duty free. Proof of age is required.

CUSTOMS POSTAL & EXPRESS BRANCH

REGINA, SASK.

FOR SALE WANTS TRADES

TRADE 1892 WINCHESTER S.R.C. complete with ring and all original except for rear sight. No dents or scratches. little or no finish. Mech. markings, wood very good. 44 Cal. # 751714

1892 WINCHESTER 44 W.C.F. Ser.# 296452. 24 in. Octagon bbl. Full mag- take down. Complete and original. Lots of blue and finish. Excellent.

1892 WINCHESTER 25-20 24 in. round bbl. Indian gun. Has "home made " checkering on grip. No finish - markings readable. No rear sight - front sight brazed. Poor.

1892 WINCHESTER 44-40 Special order (was) Barrel has been busted off at receiver and re-threaded so is 29 1/4 inches long instead of original 30. Has shotgun butt, but wood is not original- so? Mag tube not original. Rifle had half mag. origianlly. Some rough-neck has fixed a special order inchester to make a collector cry.

Will trade above for Colt percussion hand guns, Colt Burgess rifles or Lightenings.

O.C. JOHNSON
Kinloch, Sask.

GUN SHOW JUNE 1 & 2 1968

EXPENCES

Paint & hauling.....	\$ 18.89
Extra caretaking.....	\$ 30.00
Special firemen.....	\$119.28
Advertising.....	\$ 80.00
Donation to scouts.....	\$100.00
Trophies.....	\$209.00
Printing costs.....	\$ 24.25

\$581.42

RECEIPTS

Entry fees,	
Table rental	\$223.00
Donation	\$ 14.00
Admission.....	\$254.65
Donations from	
members at auction..	\$ 35.00

\$526.65

\$ 581.42
\$ 526.65

NET LOSS \$ 54.77

FOR SALE WANTS TRADES

WANTED Canadian cap badges, cartridges, or what have you?

Harvey PICKETT
Maple Creek, Sask.

That fine Model 73 Winchester belongs in my collection. How
about selling or trading it to me?

Ben BRODERICK.
Consul, Sask.

Wish to hear of any unusual Nazi flags or banners in your area,
and am interested in most genuine Nazi items.

Bob HENDERSON
1400 B Grace St. Regina, Sask.

Rene GAUDRY specializes in anything! If you want to buy, sell
or trade, contact him at

4408 2nd. N. Regina, Sask.

WANTED MARLIN tip-up pistols in good or better condition.

Leith ROSS
Box 45 Cymric, Sask.

WANTED W.W. 11 souvenirs. Just starting to collect.

R. (Bob) SMITH
2305 Halifax St. Regina, Sask.

SELL OR TRADE Will sell or trade for coins or old guns,
REMINGTON 30-06 Model 760 pump- excellent condition.
\$ 140.00

Dennis BITZ
Pilger, Sask.

FOR SALE a set of Canadian Centennial Guns, consisting of a
Remington Model 742 "Woodmaster" Autoloader /.308 Cal. and
the Ruger Model 10/22 "Sporter" /.22 Autoloader.
This set had been sold by Peterborough Guns Ltd. and
is a limited edition. The serial No. of my set is
.41 which is from the " B " edition.

Ferg COOK
324 Victoria Crescent
Winnipeg 8 , Manitoba.

